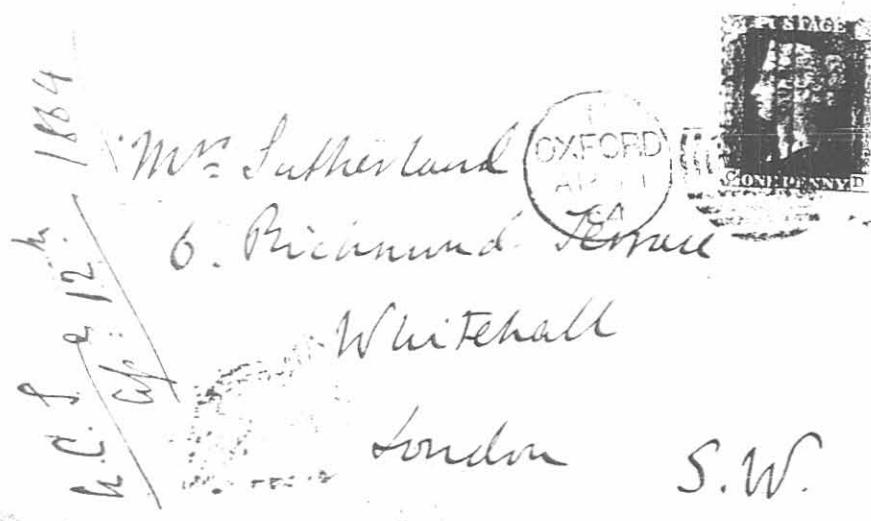


PERFINS

(PERFORATED INITIALED STAMPS)

This exhibit will tell the story of the use of perforated initialed stamps (perfins) from its precursors and its various uses.

TO PREVENT THEFT



In 1859, The Oxford Union Society adopted the practice of printing its initials on the face of stamps it provided free to its members. This was done unofficially and permitted until 1869. At that time, The Society was told to conform with the official procedure of printing protective initials on the backs of its stamps. This practice having been initiated in 1867.



Unofficial overprint
(narrow spacing.)



Unofficial overprint
(wide spacing.)



Official underprint
(narrow spacing.)



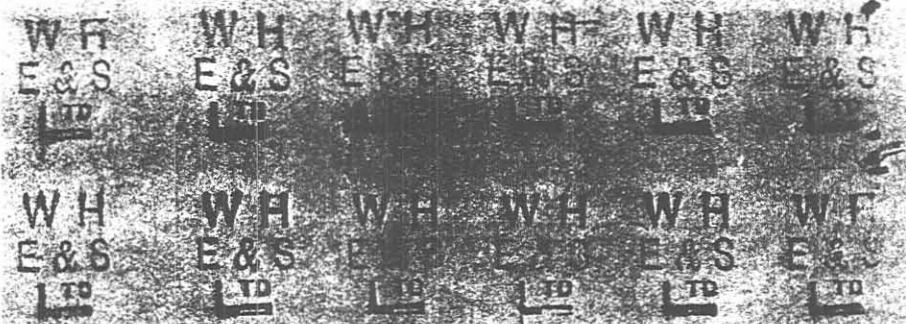
Official underprint
(wide spacing.)

Editor's Note: This page and the next three pages are from the award winning exhibition of Dr. Harvey G. Tilles. In addition to collecting perfins and security markings, Dr. Tilles is an accredited APS Judge and was the compiler and editor of the *Tilles Catalog* which was the first illustrated catalog of the perfins of Great Britain. The entire exhibit will be presented in serial fashion in future editions.

THIEF-STAMP DETECTOR

TO PREVENT THEFT

In 1912, the British Post Office gave the W.H. Everett & Son permission to utilize its concept of thief protection.



12 proof impressions.



Block of 9 complete impressions.

"EVERETT" THIEF-STAMP DETECTOR

"THE TIMES" says—

"THE PILFERING OF POSTAGE STAMPS."

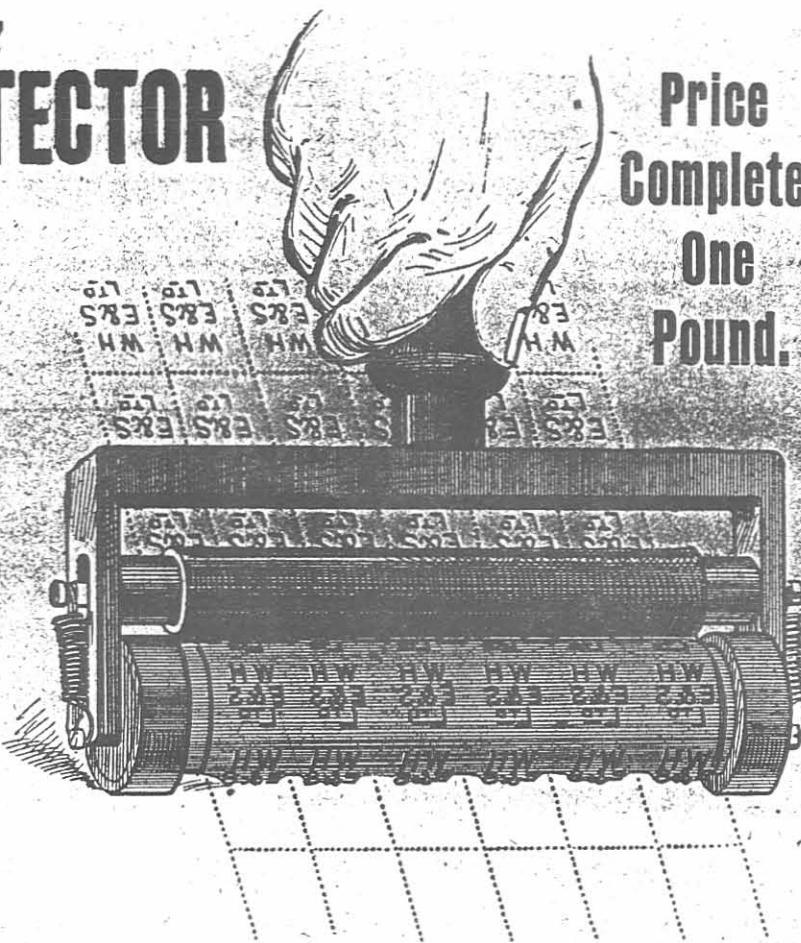
"Many big firms have suffered from the petty pilfering of postage stamps, and numerous devices have been formed with a view to checking the evil. By far the most salutary step in this direction has just been sanctioned by the Postmaster-General, who has given Messrs. W. H. Everett & Son, Ltd., permission to stamp their stamps on the back, and thus prevent them from being stolen. 'For fifteen years past,' they write to a contemporary, 'we have been trying to obtain this, and have at length succeeded.' The passage in the letter from the General Post Office giving the necessary permission runs as follows:—'If you still consider it necessary, in order to prevent pilfering, to adopt the practice of printing your initials on the back of your postage stamps, the Postmaster-General will not withhold his assent to your taking this course; and in the event of your doing so, instructions shall be given to the effect that stamps printed on the back are not to be re-purchased at Post-offices.'—*Times*."

To all who know the danger of allowing stamps to be in the hands of employees in such a state as to be negotiable and only to be identified if the thief is caught red-handed, this cheap and effective method will prove invaluable.

Price (complete) One Pound.

* This is not one-tenth of the price of a safe, but is a hundred times more effective.

W. H. EVERETT & SON, LTD.,
Bell's Buildings, Salisbury Square, London, E.C.



"THE NEWSAGENT AND BOOKSELLERS' REVIEW" says—

TO CHECK THE POSTAGE-STAMP THIEF.

"Not satisfied with having done so much" (secured the consent of the Postmaster General to print on the backs of postage stamps), "Messrs. Everett have gone a step further, and made it possible for everyone to print his initials on the postage stamps himself. They have contrived a handy and clever little apparatus, which they call the 'Everett' Thief-stamp Detector, by means of which half a sheet of stamps can be printed in a few seconds. This they are prepared to supply at the extremely reasonable price of £1. Messrs. Everett will be pleased to furnish the 'trade' with particulars as to prices, &c."—*The Newsagent and Booksellers' Review*.

Tilles' Exhibit Page 2

OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL UNDERPRINTS OF GREAT BRITAIN

TO PREVENT THEFT

1867, the British Post Office offered the service of printing the company's name under the gum. These official underprint stamps were printed in the color of the stamp being issued by Perkins, Bacon, and Company. Five different companies availed themselves of the service until 1880.



COPESTAKE,
MOORE,
CRAMPTON, & CO.,
London.

Oxford University
Society

Copestake
Moore,
Crampton, & Co.,
London

J. & C. BOYD & CO.
7 FRIDAY ST.

J. & C. BOYD & CO.
7 FRIDAY ST.

G. E. R.

W.H. Smith and Son
186 Strand

W.H. Smith and Son
186 Strand

Great Eastern Railroad
7 Friday St.

Private companies printed their names over the gum with black or blue ink. The application of the stamp by licking the stamp and washing the stamp from the envelope, makes the legibility of these underprints extremely difficult.



PEARS
SOAP

Smith & Lister
(backward 'S')

Pears
Soap

WILLIAM
WHITELEY,
LONDON.

William
Whitelby
London

VICKERS,
SONS & CO.,
LIMITED,
SHEFFIELD,

Vickers,
Sons & Co.
Limited
Sheffield



W. Courtois
Prague
Austria

Tilles' Exhibit Page 3.



Photograph of the stamps taken through the reverse of the cover.

Property of
A. & S. Henry & Co.,
Portland St.,
Manchester.

'Property of A & S Henry & Co., Portland Street,
Manchester'

UNDERPRINTS AND OVERPRINTS OF FRANCE, BELGIUM & SWITZERLAND AS PRECURSORS TO PERFINS

TO PREVENT THEFT

L



Belgium-'G' overprint for banking house of Mons. the Banque Paternostre-Gillochin, Emile Siraut & Cie. In use for about 2 years.



France 1872- 'LANGER' underprint.



France 1872-'C.L.h.P.M. et Co. à Charleville'.



C. L. h. P. M.
et C^o,
à Charleville.

K.JOURNELL



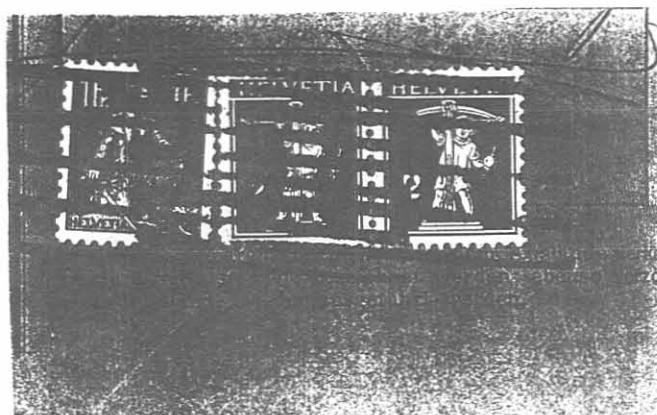
France 1888-'Imprint of 'K.JOURNELL et Cie', Banker of Chauney.

The French Post Office authorized the use of control underprints in the late 1800's. However, the unofficial use of these underprints were utilized by companies printing their names over the gum.

G & B



Switzerland 1870-1872-Purple overprint of Messrs. Geilinger & Blum, Winterhur.



Switzerland 1933-Customs control 'Buxtorf & Cie'.

EK&C



Switzerland 1882-'E.K. & C. E. Kalin & Cie., Einsiedeln.

The private cancellations were recognized by the Swiss Post Office and used between 1854 and 1882

Tilles' Exhibit Page 4.